

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths Reading Guide, pp. 1-15
'Gaea, Uranus, & the Titans'

1. Who were the first children of Gaea and Uranus? _____

2. Who were the second set of children of Gaea and Uranus? _____
3. What was unique about the physical appearance of this second set of children?

- 4 (a,b,c). What were the individual names of these 3 children? _____

5. The third set of children of Gaea and Uranus were the "Hundred-Handers". Name the pit where Uranus imprisoned both the Cyclopes and "Hundred-Handers".

6. (a) Who was the king of the Titans? (b) With what weapon did he overthrow his father?

7. Who was Gaea's second husband? _____
8. During whose reign was the Golden Age of mankind? _____

9 (a,b,c). Write down 3 phrases which describe this age of mankind.

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

10. Where did Cronus leave the Cyclopes and 100-Handers? Give the name of this place.

11. Why did Cronus swallow his own children? _____

12. Who was the 6th and youngest of the children of Cronus and Rhea? _____

13. What object did Rhea trick Cronus into swallowing instead of the baby Zeus?

14. On what island was this child hidden? [The “noisy earth sprites” were demi-gods called both the Curetes and the Corybantes.]

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths Study Guide, pp. 16-23
'Zeus and his Family'

1. (a) Who/What was Amaltheia? (b) What was so special about her horns? _____

2. How was the aegis (the impenetrable breastplate of Zeus) constructed? _____

3. (a) Of what was Metis the goddess? (b) What advice did she give to Zeus?

4. (a) What trick did Metis play on Cronus? (b) What happened as a result of this trick? [The original version of this myth is different from our text. In his *Theogony* ("The Birth of the Gods"), the Greek poet Hesiod writes that Gaea & Rhea were the two who tricked Uranus.]

(a) _____

(b) _____

5. Who were the **original** 6 Olympian gods?

6 (a, b). Who were the only two Titans to come over to Zeus' side during the battle between the Titans and the Olympian gods (called the Titanomachy)?

7. Why did they switch to Zeus? _____

8. From where did Zeus free the Hundred-Handers and the Cyclopes?

9 (a, b, c). What were the 3 weapons that the Cyclopes made for Poseidon, Hades, and Zeus?

10. Where did Zeus lock the Titans? Name the place. _____

11. Who was the most powerful Titan whose punishment was holding the sky?

12. Who was the mother of the monsters Typhon and Echidna? _____

13. Why was Gaea angry at Zeus? _____

14. (a,b) Briefly describe Typhon with 2 phrases. (c) What did the Olympian gods do when Typhon **first** attacked them?

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

15. (a) Under what mountain was Typhon trapped? (b) Who trapped him there?

[Extra: The picture on p.18 has Echidna protecting the offspring of Typhon: the Nemean lion was the 1st Labor of Hercules; Cerberus was the 3-headed Hound who guarded the entrance to the Underworld; Ladon was the dragon who protected the Apples of Hesperides, the goal of Hercules' 11th Labor; the Chimaera was the 'part-lion, part-goat, part-snake' creature who was killed by Bellerophon riding the winged-horse Pegasus; the Sphinx was the 'face of a woman, body of a lion, wings of a bird' creature whose riddle Oedipus solved; and the Hydra of Lerna was the 2nd Labor of Hercules. All of these creatures, therefore, functioned as tests for heroes in the same way that Typhon was a test for Zeus and the other Olympian gods.]

16. Who built the palace on Mt. Olympus? [The 'goddesses of the seasons' were called the Horae.]

17. Who was the messenger goddess who 'ran along the rainbow'? _____

18. What male god was also a messenger, called the 'herald of the gods'? _____

19 (a, b). Who were the eldest brother and sister of Zeus?

(a) _____

(b) _____

20. What, instead of blood, flowed in the veins of the gods? _____

21 (a, b). What was the food and drink of the gods?

(a) _____

(b) _____

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths, Study Guide, pp. 24-29
'Hera, Hephaestus'

1. Zeus' trick to make Hera his wife: (a) what did he create to cause danger? (b) into what animal did he transform himself?

2. (a) What did Gaea give to Hera as a wedding gift? (b) What was so special about this gift?

*Note that one of the creatures on p.18 (being suckled by Echidna) is Ladon, the 'hundred-headed creature who guarded the golden apples'. Hercules' 11th Labor was to face the monster Ladon and bring back the golden apples of Hesperides.

3. Why did Zeus believe that his many affairs with mortal women were a good thing?

4. Why did Zeus turn the mortal girl Io into a cow?

5. What was so special about the guard Argus?

6. (a) Whom did Zeus send down to free Io from Argus? (b) How was Argus killed?

7. (a) Who was Io's father? (b) How did he recognize her (since she was a cow)?

8. (a) Whom did Inachos attack? (b) What happened to Inachos' river?

9. (a) Where is the 'Bosporus'? (b) What is the meaning of the name 'Bosporus'?

10. Where was Io worshipped as a goddess?

11. (a) Who were the parents of Hephaestus? (b) Why did Hephaestus have a limp?

12. Who nursed him back to health after his great fall?

13. What did Hephaestus create to help him move about and to assist him in his workshop?

14. What children of Gaea & Uranus were helpers in his volcanic workshops?

*For the birth of Hephaestus, this text follows the version in Homer's *Iliad*; in the *Homeric Hymn to Apollo*, Hera alone gave birth to Hephaestus (b/c Zeus alone had 'given birth' to Athena), but she tossed him off of Mt.

Olympus b/c of his ugliness.

15. Who was the wife of Hephaestus?

*In Homer's *Odyssey*, there is a story about the infidelity of Hephaestus' wife (not alluded to in this text, except for a reference at the end of the section, 'She would rather have had his brother Ares for her husband'):

Hephaestus suspected her of having an affair with Ares, the god of war, so he fashioned a transparent trap of chains about his marriage bed to catch the two of them in the act; the device worked, and Hephaestus invited all the other gods and goddesses to view them in their embarrassing situation (the goddesses refused to come and view the shameful scene).



D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths, Study Guide, pp. 30-37
‘Aphrodite, Ares, Athena’

1. (a) On what island did Aphrodite first appear after her birth from the sea? (b) Name the group of 3 goddesses who welcomed the goddess upon her arrival.

*This text leaves out the gory details: when Cronus chopped off the private parts of his father Uranus, they fell into the sea; out of the foam of the splash arose Aphrodite. This birth from the sea is depicted in *The Birth of Venus*, a famous Renaissance painting by the Italian painter Botticelli.

2. (a) Who was the son of Aphrodite? (b) What power did his arrows have?

3. Who was a constant companion of Ares? _____

4. What did golden apple of Eris cause people (even close friends) to do? _____

5. Which side did Ares favor in battle? _____

6. How did Ares react when wounded? _____

7. Who of the gods hated Ares the most? _____

*In Homer’s *Iliad*, the Greek Diomedes (aided by Athena) wounded first Aphrodite and then Ares, who ‘let loose a shriek, roaring, thundering loud as nine, ten thousand combat soldiers shriek with Ares’ fury when massive armies clash’.

8. (a) Why did Zeus swallow his first wife Metis? (b) How did he trick her into allowing this?

9. Who helped out Zeus with the birth of Athena? _____

10. Who was the constant companion of Athena? _____

11. What was the boast of the mortal girl Arachne? _____

12. What did the tapestry of Athena show? _____

13. What did the tapestry of Arachne show? _____

14. Into what was Arachne transformed? _____

*From the name Arachne, which means 'spider' in Greek, biologists now refer to all insects with 4 pairs of legs (such as spiders, scorpions, and ticks) as *arachnids*.

15. How did Athena and Poseidon decide which of them would claim a certain city in Greece? _____

16. (a) What did Poseidon offer, and (b) with what weapon did he create his gift? _____

17. What was the gift of Athena? _____

18. What animal is sacred to Athena? _____



**Study Guide, D'Aulaires' Greek Myth, pp. 38-43
'Poseidon, Apollo'**

1. What is the character/personality of Poseidon? _____

2. Why is he called 'the Earthshaker'? _____

3. Who ruled the sea before Poseidon? _____

4. (a) Who are the Nereids, and (b) how many are there? _____

5. Who is the wife of Poseidon? _____

6. Where do Poseidon and his wife live? _____

7. (a) Who is the only son of Poseidon and his wife? (b) What musical 'instrument' did he play?

8. How is the wife of Poseidon different from the wife of Zeus?

9. What was the only thing which grew on Delos? _____

10. Why was the island Delos not considered 'land'? _____

11. (a) What twins were born on this island, and (b) who were their parents?

12. (a) Why did Hera try to prevent the birth of these twins, and (b, c) in what two ways did she attempt to do so? _____

*Just as both Apollo and Helios are associated with the sun, both Hera and Ilithyia are closely connected with childbirth.

13. How was Hera finally persuaded to permit the birth of the twins?

14. List 2 duties of Artemis. _____

15. List 3 duties of Apollo. _____

16. On what mountain is Delphi located? _____

*The temple of Apollo on Delos was very famous in ancient times, and many visitors left offerings in the temple. Thus, Delos was a very rich island from all the gifts of pilgrims visiting the temple of Apollo.

17. Who is the 'sibyl'? _____

18. What creature guarded the oracle of Delphi? _____

19. How did Apollo defeat this creature and thus take control of the oracle of Delphi?

20. What change occurred when Apollo took charge of Delphi?

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths, Study Guide, pp. 44-49 – 'Artemis'

1. What did Artemis request from her father about marriage? _____

2. What creatures pulled the chariot of Artemis? _____

3. What was the crime of Actaeon? _____

3. (a) How did Artemis punish Actaeon? (b) How was Actaeon killed?

5. Where was Niobe queen? _____

6. How many children did Niobe have? _____

7. Why did Niobe believe that she should be worshipped instead of Leto?

8. Who killed all of Niobe's children? _____

9. What happened to Niobe herself? _____

10. (a) Who were Otus and Ephialtes? (b) Who was their father?

11. What was the prophecy about these two brothers? _____

12. Why was Gaea angry at Zeus and therefore supportive of the twin giants' challenge to Zeus?

13. From where did Otus and Ephialtes make their demand to Zeus & the other gods?

14. Whom did the brothers demand for their brides?

Otus: _____ Ephialtes: _____

15. What happened when (a) Zeus and (b) Ares attempted to fight the two brothers?

16. Who came up with the plan to defeat the brothers? _____

17. The Death of the Twin Giants (a) Who disguised herself as a white deer? and (b) How did Otus and Ephialtes die? and (c) Give the place where they were imprisoned, back to back, with snakes binding their hands together.

18. Who was the father of Orion? _____

19. How did Orion differ from his brothers Otus and Ephialtes?

20. What special power did Orion have? _____

21. What was the problem with the island of Chios? _____

22. What did the King of Chios promise to Orion if he took care of the problem?

23. How did the King of Chios (a) trick and (b) injure Orion? _____

*The king of Chios was Oenopion ('wine-face' b/c he used wine to trick Orion and b/c the island Chios was famous for its wines), and his daughter was named Merope.

24. (a) Why did Orion need to visit the sun, and (b) how did he get there?

25. Where did Orion meet Artemis? _____

26. What activity did Orion and Artemis have in common? _____

27. Why did Apollo grow jealous? _____

28. (a) How did Orion die? (b) Into what were Orion and the creature transformed?

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths, Study Guide, pp. 50-55 – 'Hermes'

1. What is the disposition/personality of Hermes? _____

2. List 4 functions/duties of Hermes. _____

*Mercury, the Roman version of Hermes, had many of the same duties as Hermes, but the Roman Mercury was also the god of trade, commerce, and profit [see the details of the picture on p.55]. The words 'merchant', 'commerce', and 'mercenary' are all derivatives from Mercury as the god of trade, commerce, and profit.

3. Who were the parents of Hermes? _____

4. On what mountain was Hermes born? _____

*This mountain is located in Arcadia, a region in northern Greece which is known for its shepherds and rural surroundings. The birth and subsequent adventures of Hermes are recounted in the *Homeric Hymn to Hermes*, a Greek poem attributed to Homer (the author of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*).

5. How did his mother's birth process differ from Leto (the mother of Apollo and Artemis)?

6. (a) How old was Hermes when he committed his first theft, and (b) what was it?

7. How did Hermes hide all traces of this theft? _____

8. How did he honor the Olympian gods (including himself) with a portion of the stolen goods?

9. (a) What did he invent soon after his theft, and (b) from what 2 materials?

10. Hermes committed the theft to leave his cave-home. Where did he want to live?

11. How did Apollo know that Hermes was responsible for the theft?

12. What was the reaction of the Olympian gods to the infant Hermes and an angry Apollo?

13. Why did Hermes return the stolen goods to Apollo? _____

14. What did he give to Apollo to appease his anger at the theft? _____

15. What did 2 gifts Apollo give to Hermes?

16. What 3 gifts did Zeus present to Hermes to aid him in his role as 'herald of the gods'?

17. What was the only time that Hera became angry with him? _____

18. Why did the gods throw pebbles at Hermes after the trial about Argus' death?

*In ancient times, cairns were very common as landmarks on roads and for divisions of property. Hermes was associated with these omnipresent piles of stones because of his role as the messenger of the gods and as the god of travel - the Greek word for these cairns is *herma*, from which the name Hermes is derived.

*One of the most important duties of Hermes was his role as a *psychopompos*, or 'guide of the souls' to the Underworld. In this capacity, he used his magic wand (the Greek *kerkeion* ['herald's staff'], the Latin *caduceus*), which was the winged staff with two entwined snakes. This caduceus is used as the symbol of the American Medical Association because it had the power to heal (as well as to harm), and Hermes / Mercury himself is the symbol of FTD Florists, to demonstrate their ability to deliver flowers anywhere quickly.

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths, Study Guide, pp. 56-63 – 'Hades, Demeter, Persephone'

1. What was the disposition/personality of Hades? _____

2. (a) Why did mortals avoid saying Hades' name, and (b) what 2 names did they then call him?

*We have the same custom today when we talk euphemistically about death. Often, we will not say 'he died' but 'he passed away, is now in Heaven'. In addition to the alternate names for Hades in this text, he was often called 'he of many names, the all-receiver'. In fact, the Roman name for Hades, Pluto, is from the Greek word *ploutos* ('wealth'), a reference to his euphemistic name 'Rich One'.

3. What is the river which flowed around the Underworld? _____

4. Who is the ferryman over this river? _____

5. What does Charon demand from souls to cross the river Styx? _____

6. What monster guarded the gates of the Underworld? _____

7. Who is the queen of the Underworld and the wife of Hades? _____

8. Why is the queen often described as 'sad'? _____

9. (a) Who is the mother of Persephone, and (b) what sort of relationship did they have?

10. What was Persephone doing when she was abducted by Hades?

*The story of the Abduction of Persephone is told in the *Homeric Hymn to Demeter*. In our text, Hades 'decided to carry her off'; in the original version, Zeus (the father of Persephone) permitted Hades to abduct her to the Underworld, but did not inform Demeter of his decision until much later. In addition, the piglets are not mentioned in the original version, but our text includes them because piglets were an important part of the religious ritual of the 'Eleusinian Mysteries' - a cult in honor of Demeter and Persephone at Eleusis, a small town located near Athens in Greece.

11. What happened when souls drank from the Lethe rivers? _____

12. (a) Who was the judge of the dead, and (b) who whipped criminals to punish them?

13. What are the Elysian fields? _____

*The Elysian Fields contrast with Tartarus, the region of the Underworld where the punishments of criminals take place.

14. What happened on earth while Persephone was below in the Underworld?

15. What did Demeter demand from Zeus? _____

16. (a) Whom did Zeus send down to talk with Hades, and (b) what role was this god performing when he went down to talk to Hades?

17. (a) What fruit had Persephone tasted during her stay in the Underworld, and (b) why is this important?

18. What natural phenomenon does this story about Persephone explain?

19. Whom did Demeter select to teach mankind how to plant & harvest grain?

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths, Study Guide, pp. 64-69 – 'Dionysus'

1. Dionysus was the god of: _____

2. The father of Dionysus was: _____

3. Dionysus was the only Olympian god whose mother was: _____

4. The mother of Dionysus was named: _____

5. What did Hera, disguised as an old woman, ask Semele?

6. What did Semele proudly reply to Hera's question?

7. Complete this advice from Hera to Semele: 'If I were you, I would ask him...'

8. What did Zeus swear by the river Styx? _____

9. What was the wish of Semele? _____

10. Why did Zeus beg Semele to change her wish?

11. Why did Zeus have to keep his promise? _____

12. What happened when Zeus showed himself as the mighty thunder-god to the mortal Semele?

13. Where did Zeus sew his unborn son by Semele after she died? _____

14. What did Zeus tell Hermes to do with the infant Dionysus? _____

15. Who took care of the infant Dionysus in the valley of Nysa? _____

16. What did Dionysus have as playmates? _____

17. What invention did Dionysus teach to humans? _____

18. What happened wherever Dionysus went? _____

19. Why did a ship of pirates carry off Dionysus, who looked like a prince?

20. How did the pirates react when Dionysus told them he was the god of wine?

21. What did Dionysus cause to sprout forth from the sea? _____

22. What sound did Dionysus cause to fill the air? _____

23. Into what creatures did Dionysus change the horrified sailors? _____

24. What does the transformation of the sailors explain about the creatures that live in the ocean?

25. What goddess (at first, at least) refused to recognize Dionysus as a god? _____

26. Hestia gave her throne to Dionysus. Where did Hestia say her place was? _____

27. Why did Zeus permit Dionysus to bring Semele up from the Underworld to the glory of Olympus?

28. What music filled the air during the big celebration? _____

29. Who was the cupbearer of the gods who filled their cups with nectar? _____

Greek Mythology, Greek/Roman Names of the Gods & Goddesses (pp. 186-187)

<i>Greek</i>	<i>Roman</i>	<i>Roman</i>	<i>Greek</i>
Ares	_____	Diana	_____
Hephaestus	_____	Apollo	_____
Persephone	_____	Bacchus	_____
Demeter	_____	Minerva	_____
Hera	_____	Jupiter	_____
Hestia	_____	Neptune	_____
Aphrodite	_____	Saturn	_____
Cronus	_____	Mercury	_____
Hermes	_____	Venus	_____
Poseidon	_____	Vesta	_____
Dionysus	_____	Proserpine	_____
Athena	_____	Ceres	_____
Zeus	_____	Juno	_____
Apollo	_____	Mars	_____
Artemis	_____	Vulcan	_____
Eros	_____	Pluto	_____
Hades	_____	Cupid	_____